

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the first Office Action mailed January 12, 2006. To clarify various aspects of inventive subject matter, Applicant amends Claims 1, 17, 26, 28, 31, 32, 35, 36, 40, and 45-49. Applicant also introduces new Claims 50-55 and cancels Claims 14, 15, 21, 22, 27, and 34 without prejudice or disclaimer. To advance prosecution of this application, Applicant has responded to each notation by the Examiner. Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, further examination, and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's statement that Claims 37-39 and 42-44 are allowed.

Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's notation that Claims 15, 20, 22, and 34-36 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicant believes all original claims are allowable, to expedite issuance of this application Applicant has rewritten independent Claims 1, 17, and 26 to include elements similar to those from Claims 15, 22, and 34, respectively. Moreover, Applicant introduces new independent Claim 50 that includes subject matter similar to allowable Claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent Claims 1, 17, 26, and 50, and all claims depending therefrom.

Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's notation that Claim 40 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. Applicant has rewritten Claim 40. Applicant believes these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims, but address the Examiner's rejections under §112. Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request favorable action with respect to all pending claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected Claims 40-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended Claim 40. Applicant believes this amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims, but address the Examiner's rejections under §112. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 11-13, 16-17, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/083195 A1 by Beshai et al. (“*Beshai*”). The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-4, 6, 14, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/018263 A1 by Ge et al. (“*Ge*”). Without addressing the veracity of the Examiner's art rejections, and solely for the purpose of advancing this case expeditiously to issuance, Applicant amends independent Claims 1, 17, and 26 include allowable subject matter, rendering these rejections moot. Applicant explicitly reserves the right to traverse some or all of these rejections in another application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ge* in view of U.S. Patent 6,665,495 by Miles et al. (“*Miles*”). The Examiner also rejected Claims 7-10, 19, 21, 23-24, 26-28, and 30-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ge* in view of U.S. Patent 6,538,784 B1 by Lee et al. (“*Lee*”). The Examiner further rejected Claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ge* and *Lee* as applied to Claims 7-10, 19-21, 23-24, 26-28, and 30-33 above, and further in view of *Miles*. Claims 45-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,532,090 by Doerr et al. (“*Doerr*”), in view of Yamada et al., and Hinds et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,920,287). Without addressing the veracity of the Examiner's art rejections, and solely for the purpose of advancing this case expeditiously to issuance, Applicant amends independent Claims 1, 17, and 26 to include allowable subject matter, and cancels Claim 45-49, rendering these rejections moot. Applicant explicitly reserves the right to traverse some or all of these rejections in another application.

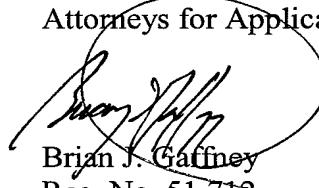
CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and full allowance of all pending Claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$100.00 for filing one additional independent claim to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If the Examiner feels that a conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, Brian J. Gaffney stands willing to conduct such a telephone interview at the convenience of the Examiner. Mr. Gaffney may be reached at 214-953-6682.

Respectfully submitted,
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